

## 4.8 PUBLIC SERVICES

### 4.8.1 Setting

Public services in the urban portions of the unincorporated areas of the County are provided and administered by various local jurisdictions and agencies. Two different types of districts are responsible for providing County residents with basic services, County Service Areas (CSA) and Community Service Districts (CSD). A CSA is a special district that is governed by the County Board of Supervisors and administered through the Department of Public Works. These special districts are usually single purpose areas that provide utility services. For example, CSA 21 provides road maintenance in Cambria, while the Cambria CSD provides water, wastewater, trash, and other services. There are seven CSAs within the County. A CSD is a local governing body authorized to provide a variety of public services, with the exception of land use planning. A CSD typically has an elected governing body with full financial and operational responsibilities. There are thirteen CSDs throughout the County.

**a. Wastewater.** Most of the county's larger unincorporated communities maintain their own treatment plants, with the exception of Cayucos and Oceano (which have joint facilities with other jurisdictions), and Santa Margarita and Los Osos (which have no sewer system at this time). There are fifteen wastewater treatment facilities that accept wastewater from unincorporated communities within the County. Those areas that are not connected to the treatment facilities rely on septic tanks and leachfields, or other acceptable methods to dispose of wastewater. The County Resource Management System (RMS) performs an annual evaluation of the County's sewage systems and determines Levels of Severity based on projected peak flows and estimation of plant capacity. As of the 2008 Annual Resources Summary Report (San Luis Obispo County, 2008), there are currently no planning areas that are experiencing any level of severity for sewage treatment. This does not account for areas such as Los Osos that currently rely on septic tanks for sewage disposal. Table 4.8-1 summarizes the existing flow rates of the different County wastewater treatment facilities and their estimated available capacities.



**Table 4.8-1. County Sewage Treatment Facilities  
Average Dry-Weather Flow (ADWF), Levels of Severity (LOS), 2008**

Name of Plant	Capacity (Millions of gallons/day)	ADWF	Percent Capacity	2008 Population	Estimated Population at 100% Capacity	LOS
Avila Beach CSD	0.20	0.045	22.6	999	NA	OK
Cambria CSD	1.00	0.580	58.0	6,330	9,895	OK
Heritage Ranch CSD	0.40	0.149	37.2	3,500	5,625	OK
Los Ranchos (CSA #18)	0.12	0.076	63.4	1,400	1,880	OK
Morro Bay/Cayucos	2.06 <sup>1</sup>	1.092	53.0	13,444	23,077	OK
Nipomo CSD (Southland)	0.90	0.570	63.3	14,547	7,364	OK
Nipomo CSD (Black Lake)	0.20	0.063	31.5	1,029	12,214	OK
Oak Shores (CSA #7A)	0.10	0.042	41.7	Unknown	Unknown	OK
Paso Robles/Templeton	4.90 <sup>2</sup>	2.963	60.5	29,007	47,948	OK
Templeton	0.60	0.147	24.6	5,398	21,943	OK
San Miguel CSD	0.20	0.117	58.5	1,679	2,870	OK
San Simeon CSD	0.20 <sup>3</sup>	0.078	38.8	925	2,384	OK
So. SLO County Sanitary District (Arroyo Grande, Oceano, and Grover Beach)	5.00	2.721	54.4	37,927	69,718	OK
Lopez Rec. (SLO County)	0.15	0.009	6.2	Unknown	Unknown	OK

Source: San Luis Obispo County Resource Management System, 2008 Annual Resources Summary Report

<sup>1</sup> Cayucos entitled to 0.721 mgd of Morro Bay plant capacity per agreement.

<sup>2</sup> Templeton is entitled to 0.40 mgd of Paso Robles plant capacity per agreement.

<sup>3</sup> Hearst Castle's entitlement is 0.05 mgd; San Simeon CSD entitlement is 0.15 mgd.

Estimated 100 percent population capacity is extrapolated from percent capacity and 2008 population.

The Planning Areas of Adelaida, El Pomar/Estrella, Las Pilitas, and Shandon-Carrizo do not have community wastewater systems and rely solely on septic tanks and other individual sewage disposal systems. Planning Areas with community systems are described below.

Estero Planning Area. Sewage from Cayucos is collected and transported through pipes to the City of Morro Bay sewage treatment plant. Cayucos Sanitary District has an agreement with the City of Morro Bay, and is entitled to the use of 40 percent of the Morro Bay treatment plant's capacity. Current plant capacity is 2.06 million gallons per day (mgd), of which 1.348 mgd is reserved for Morro Bay and 0.712 mgd for Cayucos. Morro Bay and Cayucos are the only areas in the Estero Planning Area that are presently sewered in the conventional manner. Morro Bay is in the process of updating their sewer treatment facility to include tertiary treatment using an oxidation ditch with filtration as the preferred treatment option.

On-site septic systems and leach fields currently serve the majority of the community of Los Osos. As the community of Los Osos has grown, these systems have become inadequate to properly dispose of wastewater effluent. High levels of nitrates were first discovered in the mid 1980's in the freshwater wells that served as the community's water supply. In response, the Regional Water Quality Control Board established a prohibition zone in which no septic system effluent was allowed to discharge into the upper aquifer, thus enacting a building moratorium for much of the community.

On September 18, 2006 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB 2701, a bill authored by Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee (R-San Luis Obispo) to resolve the longstanding Los Osos sewer conflict. The Governor's signature comes after thirty years of aggravated gridlock and alleged violations of state law, dividing the Los Osos community. AB 2701 authorizes a transfer of



authority for the controversial sewer project from the Los Osos Community Services District to the County of San Luis Obispo. The County has prepared an EIR and is currently in the local permitting process requesting a Coastal Development Permit to construct the project that would result in the construction of a hybrid-gravity sewer system for the community of Los Osos that is located within the prohibition zone (as defined by the Regional Water Quality Control Board).

Huasna-Lopez Planning Area. Lopez Lake Recreation Area is served by a small sewage treatment plant with wastewater disposal by percolation and evaporation ponds. Uses located within the Lopez Lake Recreation Area and Lopez terminal reservoir watersheds are only permitted to have septic disposals if there will be no hazard to the lake's water quality. Sewage disposal throughout the remainder of the planning area is by septic systems. Soil conditions and large parcel sizes should permit the continued safe usage of these techniques. Intensive recreational uses, however, may be limited by septic disposal methods (Huasna-Lopez Inland Area Plan, 2003).

Los Padres Planning Area. Private residences within the Los Padres planning area generally use septic tanks and leach lines. Other areas, including rustic trail campsites and recreational sites within the national forest, utilize either pit toilets or leach lines for sewage disposal. The more developed campground areas have permanently located pit toilets that are periodically pumped, while other more remote campsite areas and lookout stations simply relocate toilet facilities when necessary.

Nacimiento Planning Area. Most soils in the planning area have a limited capacity to absorb sewage effluent (Nacimiento Area Plan, 2003). As a result, community sewage treatment systems are required for all new developments with a density of more than one dwelling unit per 2 ½ acres, as well as for day use areas, recreational vehicle parks, and other intense uses. The rural portions of the planning area are sparsely populated and must rely on individual septic systems. Septic tanks in the Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio watersheds are acceptable only where their use would not degrade the quality of the lake, streams or groundwater supplies. Treatment plants and septic systems must meet the requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board as well as the standards specified in the area plan. Sites have been reserved outside the Lake Nacimiento watershed for disposal of treated effluent from Lake Nacimiento Resort and Heritage Ranch in accordance with requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. For Oak Shores, the reduced development level has eliminated the sewage disposal site previously proposed in the 1974 specific plan for the Lynch Flat area (outside the Lake Nacimiento watershed). The existing sewage treatment plant and disposal area are not sufficient to serve the potential 1,786 units (Nacimiento Area Plan, 2003). Sewage disposal acceptable to the Regional Water Quality Control Board will have to be provided.

North Coast Planning Area. Sewage disposal in rural and agricultural portions of the planning area is served entirely by septic tanks. Sewage disposal in Cambria is provided by the Cambria Community Services District. The San Simeon Acres Community Services District provides service for San Simeon Acres and Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument.

The Cambria CSD provides sewage disposal in Cambria. Sewage disposal service is provided to Park Hill, Happy Hill, Moonstone Beach, the downtown area and the Lodge Hill area. Future development will be linked to the existing network and expanded as needed. The sewage



treatment facility has been expanded to one million gallons per day. The project required the development of the alternative spray disposal area in the vicinity of Van Gordon Creek and San Simeon Creek. Wastewater disposal is being accomplished by spray irrigation and by surface water discharge from the proposed reservoir. In addition, discharge to this basin will be designed to prevent seawater intrusion resulting from well water withdrawals (North Coast Area Plan, 2005).

The San Simeon Community Services District provides sewer service to the San Simeon area. The present sewer plant has a capacity of 150,000 gallons per day and was completed in 1973. One-third of the capacity has been purchased by the state to serve the Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument. Further expansion will be necessary, particularly to handle peak flows that occur during the summer tourist season. The ultimate plant capacity is limited to 300,000 gallons per day due to the limited space of the existing site. The Master Water and Sewerage Plan identifies two alternatives: first, a new plant designed to serve San Simeon Acres and immediate vicinity; second, joint use and expansion of the Cambria wastewater treatment plant. An ocean outfall line is presently used for disposal. Replacement of this outfall line in accordance with California Water Quality Control Board objectives is anticipated in the future.

Salinas River Planning Area. The rural portion of the Salinas River planning area (outside of urban areas) relies on septic systems for sewage disposal. Due to good soil conditions and larger parcel sizes, these methods should continue to prove satisfactory for anticipated levels of development in most of the planning area (Salinas River Inland Area Plan, 2001). The community of Santa Margarita relies on septic systems. The community is located primarily on clay soils, and plagued with poor storm drainage and high groundwater, creating problems for successful septic system operation in the area.

The cities of Paso Robles and Atascadero and the San Miguel Sanitary District each operate their own collection and treatment facilities. The Templeton Community Services District has a contractual entitlement to a portion of the Paso Robles treatment plant capacity and also operates an additional smaller treatment plant which it has recently expanded.

San Luis Bay Planning Area. There are several wastewater treatment facilities that accept sewage from the unincorporated communities of the planning area. The remaining portions of the planning area are serviced by septic tank systems.

The South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District treatment plant treats wastewater from Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande and Oceano. The plant capacity will need to be expanded to handle the increased development in the service area. Plant modifications are currently underway to improve the quality of the treatment process (San Luis Bay Coastal Area Plan, 2004). Work is also underway to repair previous storm damage to the ocean outfall and to extend the outfall further off the shoreline. Pismo Beach has recently decided to utilize the district's outfall line for disposal of treated effluent from the Pismo Beach sewage treatment plant, rather than build a new ocean outfall from the city plant (San Luis Bay Coastal Area Plan, 2004). With this increased quantity of effluent, the capacity of the outfall line will need to be expanded to handle future increased flows.

The Avila Beach Community Services District provides sewer service to developed portions of Avila Beach as a zone of benefit (San Luis Bay Coastal Area Plan, 2004). The district acquired



the sewage treatment plant and outfall line in the 1974 reorganization of local special districts. The zone of benefit excludes Union Oil Company facilities since the company maintains and operates its own facilities. The Avila Beach Treatment Plant has a capacity of 200,000 gpd.

San Luis Obispo Planning Area. Sewage disposal needs of the rural and urban reserve portions of the San Luis Obispo planning area are served primarily by individual septic systems. City collection and treatment facilities serve San Luis Obispo, and both septic systems and a package treatment plant serve the Los Ranchos/Edna Village area. The California Mens Colony operates a sewage treatment plant adjacent to Chorro Creek, which also serves Camp San Luis Obispo, Cuesta College and the County Operational center.

The city of San Luis Obispo's existing sewage treatment facilities will be adequate to serve a projected population of 50,800. The city also treats the wastewater from Cal Poly University which owns a portion of the city's treatment facility. Based on population estimates, the city's urban expansion indicated by the urban services line should be adequately served with further incremental expansions of the facility's capacity (San Luis Obispo Area Plan, 2003).

The sewage treatment plant serving the Country Club area has the capacity to serve approximately 500 lots, and was operating at 63 percent capacity in 2008 (San Luis Obispo County Resource Management System, 2008 Annual Resource Summary).

**b. Fire Protection.** The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department (Cal Fire), provides fire protection, emergency medical, and rescue services to the following unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County: Adelaida, Avila Beach, California Valley, Cholame, Creston, Garden Farms, Harmony, Heritage Ranch, Nipomo, Oak Shores, Port San Luis, Pozo, San Luis Obispo County Airport, San Simeon, Shandon, Simmler, Toro Creek, Wellsona, and Whitley Gardens. Other unincorporated areas of the County are provided fire services by special fire districts or individual CSDs.

Fire hazard severity is determined by a number of factors including but not limited to: remoteness of the area, density of vegetation, the areas circulation network, proximity to fire fighting facilities, vegetation type, and the degree of urbanization. These factors among others contribute to an area's overall emergency response time.

Appropriate response times for fire protection services vary with the degree of urbanization. Framework for Planning indicates appropriate response times for fire protection services. Appropriate response times for urban areas are up to six minutes; for suburban areas, six to seven minutes; and, for rural areas, ten minutes (Framework for Planning, (Inland), 2003). Response times exceeding 15 minutes for structure fires provide little possibility of saving the structure, and 60 minutes or more could mean fires approaching disaster levels in steep, chaparral covered, remote areas such as the Santa Lucia Range. For structure fires, Cal Fire has mutual aid agreements with all fire protection agencies in the County. An air tanker squadron at Paso Robles Airport is available if needed.

Urban fires are primarily those associated with structures and the activities in and around them. Most urban fires in the County are caused by human activity. Over the years, County development standards have become more stringent to reduce the frequency and severity of such events. Building codes now require firewalls for adjacent structures. Local ordinances often prohibit the use of fire-prone materials, such as shake-shingle roofs. Electrical standards



have also been upgraded to reduce fire risk inside structures. Smoke detectors are now required and sprinklers are required for all structures greater than 1,000 square feet in area.

Adelaida Planning Area. Fire protection is provided in the planning area by stations located south of the City of Paso Robles and at Las Tablas (the intersection of Chimney Rock Road and Cypress Mountain Drive). A lookout base is maintained on Rocky Butte in the extreme northwest corner of the planning area. Both the Las Tablas station and Rocky Butte lookout station are manned on a seasonal basis (generally May to October). The westerly edge of the planning area is also served by the Cal Fire stations at Cambria and Cayucos on a secondary basis. Other agencies closest to the planning area include the city of Paso Robles and the Heritage Ranch volunteer fire company. A fire company is also maintained at Camp Roberts by the California National Guard and is available for additional cooperative assistance (Adalaida Area Plan, 2003).

Fire response time in portions of the planning area is poor to fair, though the majority of the area has a response time of 30 minutes or less. The eastern and central northwest portions can be reached within 15 minutes due to closer proximity to primary stations at Paso Robles and Las Tablas. The Santa Lucia Range along the westerly edge of the planning area is less accessible, with response time from 45 to greater than 60 minutes (Adelaida Area Plan, 2003).

El Pomar-Estrella Planning Area. Cal Fire provides fire protection for the entire planning area and maintains mutual and automatic aid agreements with the Paso Robles, Atascadero City, and Templeton Fire Departments. The closest fire engine response is from stations in Creston and on Highway 46 near Branch Road (Meridian). Cal Fire has identified the potential need for a future station near the Creston Road/Neal Springs Road intersection or the Creston Road/Stage Coach Road intersection. The need now exists to staff the Creston station (#43) with permanent personnel 24 hours a day to provide emergency services to the increasing number of residents in the area (El Pomar-Estrella Area Plan, 2003).

Estero Planning Area. Cal Fire provides fire protection for the majority of the rural and agricultural areas in the Estero planning area. A station is located immediately south of Cayucos. The city of Morro Bay provides fire protection within the corporate boundaries. The Cayucos area is served by local fire protection facilities (Cayucos Fire Department), while Cal Fire acts as the fire protection agency in the South Bay (Los Osos) area.

Fire protection needs in Cayucos are provided by the Cayucos Fire Department, a volunteer department. The existing fire station is located at the corner of Ash Avenue and Cayucos Drive; this is convenient for the commercial areas but not for the southern portion of the community. Cal Fire has the responsibility for serving the surrounding rural areas and maintains a station under a reciprocal agreement with the district if the need arises.

Huasna-Lopez Planning Area. Fire protection for the Huasna-Lopez planning area is provided by Cal Fire. Stations are located in San Luis Obispo and Nipomo, and an air tanker squadron is based at the Paso Robles airport during high risk fire season. Response times from the Cal Fire stations are generally poor, with most areas being served in more than 30 minutes, although some limited areas can be served within 15 to 30 minutes. Assistance can be requested from the U.S. Forest Service, which operates a helicopter just east of Lopez Lake on the Hi Mountain Road during high fire risk season. Additional cooperative assistance is provided to



the Arroyo Grande Valley area by the City of Arroyo Grande Fire Department. Prescribed burnings are conducted cooperatively by the Cal Fire and private landowners to reduce wildland fire hazards. Structural fire protection and medical aid assistance is provided year-round by the San Luis Obispo County Fire Department (Cal Fire). A fire pick-up pumper is maintained in the Lopez Lake Recreation Area for immediate response to fires in the park area. The Huasna-Lopez Planning Area is identified by the California Department of Forestry (Cal Fire) as a "high" or "very high" fire hazard severity area (Huasna-Lopez Area Plan, 2003).

Los Padres Planning Area. The Los Padres area is served by Cal Fire, U.S. Forest Service (primary function of is to prevent and suppress wildland fires on national forest lands), and local firefighting agencies in combating fires on privately owned lands. Lookout stations are at Hi and Branch Mountains; fire stations are located at Lopez, Pozo, La Panza, and a helicopter base is located east of Arroyo Grande (Los Padres Area Plan, 2003).

Las Pilitas Planning Area. Fire protection is provided in the planning area by both Cal Fire and the U.S. Forest Service. Cal Fire has primary responsibility for private lands outside Las Padres National Forest. The Cal Fire Santa Margarita Station on Park Hill Road east of Highway 58 serves the entire planning area. The 15-minute response area of that station includes Park Hill and Santa Margarita/Pozo Roads, to about three miles south of Santa Margarita Lake. Cal Fire can reach most remaining portions of the planning area within 30 minutes; however, the rugged, more remote areas north and east of Santa Margarita Lake and at the southeasterly edge of the planning area have response times from 30 to 60 minutes. Responses in excess of 15 minutes provide little possibility for saving a structure; response times of 60 minutes could mean disaster in steep, chaparral-covered areas. The Forest Service Station at Pozo, and an air tankers from Paso Robles Airport are also available if needed (Las Pilitas Area Plan, 2003)

Nacimiento Planning Area. Fire protection for the Nacimiento planning area is provided by Cal Fire. Cal Fire serves primarily from the station south of Paso Robles, from the Las Tablas station during the summer, from Lockwood (in Monterey County), and from Cambria in the western edge of the planning area. Though the primary responsibility of Cal Fire in the Nacimiento area is the control of brush and forest fires, they are under contract with the county to also combat structural fires. The air tanker squadron based at the Paso Robles airport responds to forest and brush fires in remote areas.

In addition to fire protection provided by the state and county, separate volunteer fire companies serve Heritage Ranch and Oak Shores. Approximately 15 state-trained volunteers and two operating fire trucks based at each station (Nacimiento Area Plan, 2003). A future fire station site has been reserved within the Oak Shores village reserve line. Similarly, fire services would be included at the government and emergency services center proposed to be located near the intersection of Lake Nacimiento Drive and Heritage Road extension in Heritage Ranch (Nacimiento Area Plan, 2003).

North Coast Planning Area. Fire protection for the rural portions of the planning area is provided by Cal Fire with the headquarters located in Cambria. A lookout base is maintained on Rocky Butte. Cambria is served through the Cambria Community Services District with a fire station located in the downtown village area. Fire protection service has been provided locally since 1957. At present, the district is served by one full-time permanent employee and a



volunteer force. An additional fire station is proposed in the west village near the Veterans Memorial Hall. Fire protection in San Simeon Acres is provided through an all-volunteer fire unit of the Community Services District. Equipment is maintained at the Cal Fire Station in Cambria (North Coast Area Plan, 2005).

Salinas River Planning Area. Cal Fire provides fire protection for areas outside of established service districts in San Miguel, Templeton and Santa Margarita, and the two cities of Paso Robles and Atascadero. In addition, the department has automatic and mutual aid agreements with the cities and independent districts. Cal Fire provides other initial attack engine companies in the Salinas River planning area. One engine company is located in the community of Templeton and responds north to the county line, and south to the northern Atascadero city limits. The second engine company is located at the Parkhill Fire Station, east of Santa Margarita. It provides service from the south end of Atascadero to the top of Cuesta grade (Salinas River Area Plan, 2003).

San Luis Bay Planning Area. Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach provide fire protection services within their respective corporate limits. The rural portions of the planning area rely on fire protection from the Cal Fire stations located in either San Luis Obispo or Nipomo. Response times from the Cal Fire station at the San Luis Obispo County Airport range up to 7 ½ minutes for areas along the northerly half of Price Canyon Road, a small area around the intersection of Noyes Road and Highway 227, and a corridor along Highway 101 south to about Castro Canyon (San Luis Bay Coastal Area Plan, 2004).

Fire protection services are provided in a portion of Avila Beach by the Avila Beach Community Services District, through a volunteer force. The service area covers the Avila Beach townsite and properties extending east to Cave Landing Road. A recently established volunteer fire company in Avila Valley provides fire protection service to Avila Valley, See, Squire, Price and Sycamore Canyons, north to the San Luis Obispo city limits, and the Diablo Canyon power plant, also utilizing an all volunteer force. The Oceano Community Services District has a volunteer force and provides services to the Oceano community, including Halcyon, from a station located at Paso Robles and 13<sup>th</sup> Street (San Luis Bay Coastal Area Plan, 2004).

The Arroyo Grande fringe area is within a 7 ½ to 15 minute response time from either San Luis Obispo or Nipomo stations. The remaining portions of the planning area have response times of 15 minutes or greater. Some of the more remote portions of the Irish Hills and Indian Knob area have response times in excess of 15 minutes. In the case of structure fires, a response time greater than 15 minutes leaves little possibility of saving the structure. Response times of 60 minutes or greater could mean fires approaching disaster levels in the steep, chaparral covered remote areas. The U.S. Forest Service is available to back-up Cal Fire capabilities with air tanks and a helicopter with fire crew. For structure fires Cal Fire has mutual aid agreements with all fire protection agencies in the county (San Luis Bay Coastal Area Plan, 2004).

San Luis Obispo Planning Area. Fire protection and emergency medical assistance for rural areas and areas between the city limits and the urban reserve line, are provided by the Cal Fire, which acts as the County Fire Department by contract with the county. Two Cal Fire stations are located in the planning area: the county headquarters is just north of the city limits on Highway 1; the second is at the San Luis Obispo County Airport south of the city on Highway 227. The city of San Luis Obispo provides fire protection within its corporate limits.





Camp San Luis Obispo maintains its own fire department, while Cal Poly provides daytime service only (San Luis Obispo Area Plan, 2003).

Shandon-Carrizo Plain Planning Area. Fire protection for the entire planning area is provided by Cal Fire with fire stations in California Valley-Simmler, Shandon, La Panza and Cuyama (Santa Barbara County). As is usual with fire protection stations, there are reciprocal firefighting arrangements with Cuyama, Kern County (McKittrick) and Monterey County (Parkfield). Rural fire protection is judged to be generally adequate for the future anticipated growth. Year-round fire protection is provided in Shandon by county personnel through CSA No. 16. Cal Fire provides additional staffing during the fire season (Shandon-Carrizo Area Plan, 2003).

**c. Police Protection and Emergency Services.** The County Sheriff's Department provides police and patrol services in the unincorporated areas of the County. The County is divided into three service areas for police protection; North, Coast, and South. The Sheriff's Department is headquartered from the operational facility near Camp San Luis Obispo on Kansas Avenue. Each area has its own substation, which is supervised by a sergeant and staffed with deputies and legal clerks.

The North Station is located at 65 North Main Street in Templeton. The North Station's area of responsibility consists of 1,400 square miles and extends from the top of Cuesta Grade to the Monterey County line, extending east to the Kern County line. Planning areas served by the North Station include: Nacimiento, Adelaida, El-Pomar/Estrella, Salinas River, Los Padres, Las Pilitas, and Shandon-Carrizo. Average response times are in the 5 to 20 minute range, while longer service requests to outlying County areas can be up to 45 minutes. Poor response times are generally due to the large area being served and the distances involved. These areas include the more rural portions of Adelaida, El-Pomar/Estrella, Nacimiento, Los Padres, Las Pilitas, and Shandon-Carrizo planning areas.

The Coast Station is located at 2099 10th Street in Los Osos, serving an area of 900 square miles. The Coast Station personnel provide service to San Simeon/Hearst Castle area, Cambria, Harmony, Cayucos, Los Osos/Baywood Park, rural San Luis Obispo, and Avila Beach/Port San Luis. Planning areas served by the Coast Station include: Nacimiento, Adelaida, North Coast, Estero, San Luis Bay Inland, San Luis Obispo, Los Padres, and Las Pilitas. Current average response times generally range from 5 to 30 minutes with longer response times to the more rural outlying areas of the service jurisdiction.

The South Station is located at 1681 Front Street in Oceano. The South Station serves the communities of Oceano, Nipomo, Huasna, rural Arroyo Grande, New Cuyama, and Lopez Lake, totaling 950 square miles. Planning areas served by the South Station include: Huasna-Lopez, South County Coastal, South County Inland, Los Padres, San Luis Obispo, and Shandon-Carrizo. Current average response times generally range from 5 to 30 minutes with longer response times to the more rural outlying areas of the south and southeast portions of the County.

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) services San Luis Obispo County's highways, with stations located in San Luis Obispo and Templeton. They are available to respond in emergency situations, but generally do not respond to residential calls.



Emergency services generally include ambulance and hospital service. Private companies based throughout the County provide ambulance service. Response times are generally good with the exception of the more rural portions of the County where the large area being served and the distances involved lend to poorer levels of service. Hospital services are provided by Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton, Arroyo Grande Community Hospital in the City of Arroyo Grande, and by French and Sierra-Vista Hospitals in the City of San Luis Obispo. In addition, the western portion of the Adelaida area and the North Coast Planning Area are included in the Cambria Community Hospital District, which operates a clinic and provides ambulance service.

**d. Schools.** Current enrollment and capacity information are provided by the school districts. School capacity is defined as permanent capacity or design capacity. Enrollment at most of the county's schools exceeds their design capacities. This is made possible by the addition of relocatable classrooms to a school site. However, estimates provided by the school districts indicate that there is a practical limit to the number of relocatable classrooms that can be added to a site, beyond which the "core" facilities become so over-stressed that the educational environment begins to deteriorate. The maximum capacity estimate was about 25 percent higher than permanent capacity.

Countywide, several districts have been experiencing significant enrollment declines over the last several years, particularly in elementary schools. The decline is generally attributed to high housing costs in some parts of the county, which deter families with young children from locating there (San Luis Obispo County, 2005). Table 4.8-2 summarizes the capacity of County school districts and ranks them by level of severity.

**Table 4.8-2 San Luis Obispo County Schools 2008**

District	School	Capacity	Enrollment	Enrollment Capacity	RLOS <sup>1</sup>
Cayucos Elementary	Cayucos Elementary	240	187	0.78	OK
Shandon Unified	Shandon Elementary	140	146	1.04	III
	Parkfield Elementary	27	14	0.52	OK
	Shandon Jr/Sr H.S.	124	149	1.20	III
Coast Unified	Cambria Elementary	360	307	0.85	OK
	Santa Lucia Middle	103	161	1.56	III
	Coast Union H.S.	506	265	0.52	OK
San Miguel Joint Union	K-5 and K-8	690	566	0.82	OK
Paso Robles	Paso Robles Elem. (6)	2,930	2,899	0.99	II
	Paso Robles Middle.	1,170	1,497	1.28	III
	Paso Robles H.S.	1,836	2,111	1.15	III
Templeton Unified	Templeton Elem (2)	955	872	0.91	II
	Templeton Middle	545	523	0.96	III
	Templeton H.S.	720	794	1.10	III
Atascadero Unified	Atascadero Elem (4)	1,708	1,820	1.07	III
	Atascadero Jr. High	1,086	714	0.66	OK
	Atascadero H.S.	1,824	1,521	0.83	I
	Carrisa Plains K-8	53	25	0.47	OK
	Creston Elementary	40	111	2.78	III
	Santa Margarita Elem	358	329	0.92	I
San Luis Coastal Unified	Los Osos Elem	897	726	0.81	OK
	Los Osos Middle	750	364	0.49	OK
	Morro Bay H.S.	1,030	908	0.88	OK
	Morro Bay Elem (1)	529	418	0.79	OK
	SLO Area Elem (7)	2,707	2,265	0.84	OK



**Table 4.8-2 San Luis Obispo County Schools 2008**

District	School	Capacity	Enrollment	Enrollment Capacity	RLOS <sup>1</sup>
	Laguna Middle	800	707	0.88	OK
	San Luis H.S.	1,550	1,523	0.98	III
	Bellevue-Santa Fe (K-8 Charter) <sup>2</sup>	170	146	0.86	OK
Lucia Mar Unified	Five Cities Elem (8)	3,991	4,454	1.12	III
	5-Cities Middle (2)	1,210	1,043	0.86	OK
	Arroyo Grande H.S.	1,500	2,233	1.49	III
	Nipomo Elem (2)	1,200	1,060	0.88	OK
	Nipomo Middle	660	769	1.17	III
	Nipomo H.S.	1,025	1,220	1.19	III
	Lopez H.S.	250	145	0.58	OK
Pleasant Valley Joint Union	Pleasant Valley School	104	137	1.32	III

Source: San Luis Obispo County Annual Resources Summary Report 2008

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> RLOS = Relative Level of Severity

I – When enrollment projections reach school capacity within seven years

II – When enrollment projections reach school capacity within five years

III – When enrollment equals or exceeds capacity

<sup>2</sup> Data from 2005 San Luis County Annual Resource Summary Report

**e. Parks and Recreation.** Parks and recreational resources are important to identify and evaluate because they provide an important measure of the physical quality of life in a community. Such resources enhance the community's aesthetic qualities, the health of the community's environment, and residents' perceptions and enjoyment of the region. Park classifications recognize that a neighborhood park has a different role than a community or regional park. Part of this role is tied to the size of the individual park. For example, a neighborhood park (with a typical size of 5 to 10 acres) simply cannot provide the same recreation or serve as many people as a community park which tends to be 15 to 25 acres in size. Below are the typical park classifications.

Mini-Parks. Mini-parks are the smallest type of park. They may range in size from a small residential lot, in some cases as small as 6,000 square feet, up to 5 acres. In most cases, mini-parks are one acre or less. Because of their small size, mini parks may be more passive in nature. A typical mini-park will include a landscaped area, a short pathway, one to two benches and perhaps a picnic table. Some mini-parks include children's play equipment, a tennis court, half a basketball court, or similar recreation. Mini-parks tend to serve a distinct neighborhood. In some cases, mini-parks are developed for combined uses. For example, as an area for children's play equipment and the neighborhood's retention basin. Because of their small size, mini-parks have limited recreation potential and have the highest inherent maintenance cost per square foot of any recreation facilities.

Linear Parks. Linear parks are located along a corridor. These parks tend to be narrow and long in configuration. Linear parks may link schools, parks or neighborhoods and may also serve a community's transportation needs. Often a linear park derives its shape by conforming to an edge: of the coast, of a river or creek or an abandoned railroad right-of-way. By their nature, linear parks lend themselves to trails and bike paths, but also typically provide other recreation amenities such as picnic areas, benches, scenic overlooks, interpretive displays and even play areas and lawns. Linear parks are most valuable and practical when they preserve



and enhance an important corridor or natural edge, or provide a protected, safe corridor between facilities (such as between a school and surrounding neighborhoods).

Neighborhood and Community Parks. Neighborhood and community parks continue to be the primary park units for meeting a community's park and recreation needs. The primary intent of a neighborhood park is to serve a nearby population, typically one or more neighborhoods. According to National Recreation and Parks Association standards, a neighborhood park is 15 or more acres. In general, neighborhood parks are within walking distance from the people they are primarily intended to serve (i.e., one mile or less). Neighborhood parks usually include passive recreation as well as some active recreation. Typical facilities might include children's play equipment, hard courts (such as basketball, tennis or handball), a turf area and individual picnic areas.

By definition, community parks are 25 or more acres, providing recreation facilities that serve the community and in some cases visitors from outside the local community. For example, a community park with numerous sports fields will draw people from a wide area for tournament play. As a result, community parks tend to serve a much larger population than a neighborhood park. Community parks also tend to be more active in nature and/or provide a greater mix of active recreation. Typical facilities might include a skate park, sports fields (football, baseball, soccer, and softball), a swimming pool, a sufficient number of tennis courts for tournament play, group picnic areas, and/or a community center as well as facilities for some passive uses such as a trails, scenic overlooks, benches and interpretive displays.

Regional Parks. Regional Parks are the largest parks provided by the County. According to the National Recreation and Parks Association, there can be two types of regional parks: Urban Regional Parks and Rural Regional Parks. The Urban Regional Park tends to have greater than 200 acres, providing facilities such as play areas, picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping and trail use. The Rural Regional Park tends to be 1,000 acres or more. These parks include nature-oriented outdoor activities, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and trail use. Both facilities tend to serve persons within one hours' driving time from the park. Because of the type of recreation provided, regional parks not only draw from the County's population but also from the economically important tourist population. El Chorro, Heilmann and Biddle Park are examples of Urban Regional Parks; whereas Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park and Lopez Lake Recreation Area would be examples of Rural Regional Parks.

Recreation Site. Another setting that is sometimes thought of as a park and/or contains park-like amenities is a site containing a community center or indoor sports facilities. Community centers or indoor sports facilities will often provide an indoor location for recreation such as basketball, fitness classes, crafts, games, and other similar recreation. These sites may also include some outdoor recreation or may simply include a building, parking and exterior landscaping. An example of a recreation site maintained by San Luis Obispo County is the San Luis Obispo Veteran's Memorial Building. This facility offers meeting rooms, music, dances, and an area for small conferences.

Existing Park Resources Provided by San Luis Obispo County. There are approximately 23 parks, 3 golf courses, and 8 Special Places (Special Places include Natural Areas, coastal access, and historic facilities. Natural Area is land protected for its resources which may also



afford some passive recreation. Two examples of Natural Areas owned and operated by San Luis Obispo County Parks include the Elfin Forest and Monarch Grove, both located in Los Osos) currently operated by San Luis Obispo County Parks. Urban Regional Parks account for 644 acres, Rural Regional Parks account for 11,398 acres, and mini, neighborhood and community parks account for 214 acres. Table 4.8-3 provides a list of park facilities maintained by San Luis Obispo County.

**Table 4.8-3. County Parks Inventory, September 2006**

Site	Location	Park Acreage	Natural Area Acres
<b>REGIONAL PARKS (URBAN)</b>			
Biddle Park	Arroyo Grande	27	20
Duveneck Park (undeveloped)	Templeton	80	0
El Chorro Park	San Luis Obispo	40	450
Heilmann Park	Atascadero	102	0
Sand and Surf RV Park	Oceano	5	0
<b>Total Regional Parks (Urban)</b>		<b>254</b>	<b>470</b>
<b>REGIONAL PARKS (RURAL)</b>			
Lopez Lake Recreation Area	Arroyo Grande	200	4,076
Santa Margarita Lake Park	Santa Margarita	21	7,101
<b>Total Regional Parks (Rural)</b>		<b>221</b>	<b>11,177</b>
<b>MINI, NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PARKS</b>			
Avila Park/Plaza	Avila	2.5	0
Cuesta Park	San Luis Obispo	5	0
C.W. Clarke Park	Shandon	11.5	0
Hardie Park	Cayucos	4	0
Lampton Cliffs Park	Cambria	2.2	0
Los Osos Community Park	Los Osos	6.2	0
Norma Rose Park (undeveloped)	Cayucos	1.5	0
Nipomo Community Park	Nipomo	74	80
Oceano Memorial Park	Oceano	11.8	0
Paul Andrew Park	Cayucos	1	0
Jack Ready Park (undeveloped)	Nipomo	30	0
San Miguel Park	San Miguel	4.3	0
Santa Margarita Community Park	Santa Margarita	2	0
See Canyon Park (undeveloped)	Avila Valley	8.7	0
Shamel Park	Cambria	6	0
Templeton Park	Templeton	3.5	0
<b>Total Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Parks</b>		<b>174.2</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>SPECIAL PLACES (NATURAL AREAS, COASTAL ACCESSWAYS, HISTORIC SITES)</b>			
Bishop Peak	San Luis Obispo	0	104.3
Cayucos Beach	Cayucos	14	0
Coastal Accessways	Coastal Area	7.3	0
Elfin Forest	Los Osos	0	38.7
Wolf Natural Area	San Miguel	0	58
Monarch Grove	Los Osos	0	18
Mesa Meadows	Nipomo	0	20
Rios Caledonia Adobe	San Miguel	2.8	0
<b>Total Special Places</b>		<b>24.1</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>GOLF COURSES</b>			
Chalk Mountain GC	Atascadero	212	0
Dairy Creek GC	San Luis Obispo	224	0
Morro Bay GC (State Parks owned, County operated)	Morro Bay	125	0
<b>Total Golf Courses</b>		<b>561</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TRAILS AND STAGING AREAS (OUTSIDE PARKS)</b>			



**Table 4.8-3. County Parks Inventory, September 2006**

Site	Location	Park Acreage	Natural Area Acres
Bob Jones Pathway	Avila Valley	1.8	0
Cypress Ridge Trail	Nipomo	1	0
Hi Mountain Trail and Staging Area	Huasna	7	0
San Miguel Staging Area (Salinas River)	San Miguel	2	0
<b>Total Trails</b>		<b>11.8</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATED ACREAGE</b>		<b>1,246.1</b>	<b>12,056</b>

*Source: San Luis Obispo County Parks and Recreation Element, September 2006*

Existing Park Resources Provided by Other Agencies. San Luis Obispo County is not the only agency that provides parks and recreation in San Luis Obispo County. Each incorporated city provides their own system of parks and recreation. Cities, since they serve an urban area, often emphasize active recreation, including recreational programming (recreation classes) as well as neighborhood and community parks. County residents may use city parks typically at no fee. In addition, County residents can typically use a city's recreation programs (recreation classes and league play) for a small, additional fee. Within the unincorporated areas of the County, some Community Services Districts (CSDs) provide parks and recreation opportunities. For example, the Cambria and Templeton CSDs both provide parks and recreation in their respective areas.

Parks are also provided by state and federal agencies. These parks tend to be passive in nature, and thus do not provide items such as soccer fields or tennis courts, but they do provide important areas for nature appreciation and often coastal access. State agencies such as the California Department of Parks and Recreation ("State Parks") provide large, typically passive parks. These parks include items such as trails, camping, access to historic facilities, and/or nature appreciation. Examples of State Parks facilities within San Luis Obispo County include Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument, Montaña de Oro State Park, Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreational Area, Estero Bluffs State Park, San Simeon State Park, Morro Bay State Park, and numerous others. The federal government also provides access to passive parkland. Agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Services often provide trail corridors, camping, nature appreciation and in some cases preservation of historic facilities. Examples of federal parks in this area include the Piedras Blancas Light House (near San Simeon), the Carrizo Plains, and the Los Padres National Forest.

Parks and recreation are not only provided by public agencies. Private individuals or groups often provide these services. For example, most communities have a health club that offers items such as weight lifting and fitness classes. In addition, private enterprise may also provide recreation facilities, such as off-highway vehicle parks, paint ball parks, and archery ranges. Throughout the County, there are private golf courses (such as Cypress Ridge and Avila Beach Golf Resort) that offer public play. In addition, some residential neighborhoods provide their own private park. The local homeowner's association usually maintains these parks for persons residing in that neighborhood.



## 4.8.2 Impact Analysis

**a. Methodology and Significance Thresholds.** The following thresholds have been used to determine the impacts to wastewater treatment, fire protection, police protection, emergency services and schools. The Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would result in potentially significant impacts if the proposed ordinance revisions would result in any of the following:

- *A need for new or physically altered governmental facilities.*
- *A reduction in the quality or quantity of governmental services to a less-than-acceptable level.*
- *A substantial increase in response time for emergency services.*

Additionally, the County of San Luis Obispo has established local thresholds pertaining to public services. Impacts would be significant if development resulting from the project would have an effect upon, or result in the need for new or altered public services in any of the following areas:

- *Fire protection;*
- *Police protection (e.g., Sheriff, CHP);*
- *Schools;*
- *Roads;*
- *Solid Wastes;*
- *Parks and recreational facilities;*
- *Wastewater;*
- *Other public facilities.*

Wastewater. Impacts on sewer collection systems are considered significant if sewage generated by future development, in accordance with the proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances, would exceed the existing or planned capacity of the sewage collection or treatment system. Impacts would also be considered significant if development associated with the ordinances for require extension of a trunk line with capacity to serve new development.

In areas of the County where septic systems treat wastewater, impacts would be considered significant if the development was concentrated in areas where the soil's natural ability to filter and biologically breakdown wastes was not adequate, or if it was not topographically feasible for a standard septic system to function properly. In such an instance, an engineered wastewater system would need to be designed.

Fire Protection. The proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would have a potentially significant impact on fire protection services if these new and revised ordinance requirements would cause development to be located in fire hazard areas, would cause a need for additional fire stations due to location or level of development, or would reduce fire response times.



Police Protection and Emergency Services. The proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would have a potentially significant impacts on police and emergency services if compliance with ordinance requirements would cause an increased need for additional police facilities, would substantially impair police protection, or would reduce police response times.

Schools. The proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would result in potentially significant impacts if the new and revised ordinance standards would cause a need for new or altered schools or other education facilities. The evaluation of school impacts under CEQA is limited to those effects with the potential to result in physical impacts, such as the need for construction of new classrooms or placement of portable classrooms.

Parks and Recreation. The County has a standard requirement of three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would have a significant impact if associated development causes the County to contain less than three acres of open space/recreation per 1,000 residents. In addition, impacts are significant if the ordinances would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

#### **b. Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures.**

**Impact PS-1 The proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would modify current development standards. This could exceed flow capacities and / or require improvements to wastewater conveyance systems. In areas where septic systems treat wastewater, health hazards and / or impacts to water quality could occur. Compliance with applicable County policies and payment of required development impact fees would ensure Class III, *less than significant*, impacts.**

In the urban areas of the County, significant impacts on community sewer systems would occur if development in accordance with the Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances generated sewage that exceeded the existing or planned capacity of the community sewage collection and treatment systems, or required extensions of trunk lines with capacity to serve new development. In areas of the County where septic systems treat wastewater, impacts would occur if the development was concentrated in areas where the soil's natural ability to filter and biologically breakdown wastes was not adequate, or if it was not topographically feasible for a standard septic system to function properly. In such an instance, an engineered wastewater system would need to be designed. The characteristics and potential impact of the ordinances are discussed below.

Development facilitated by the Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would be consistent with the buildout potential anticipated under the County's General Plan. The ordinance amendments will not result in a change in land use designations nor will they intensify development potential on lands within the County. Development resulting from these amendments would occur throughout the County, within urban areas, and in unincorporated rural areas of the County. Where community sewer systems are available, this additional population would create demand for wastewater services that could exceed flow capacities





and/or require improvements to the wastewater conveyance systems within the County. Where treatment plants are not available, primarily in unincorporated rural areas of the County, septic systems would be required. Insufficient percolation or topographic constraints in these areas could also result in wastewater impacts. Overall, potential wastewater generation is a potentially significant impact.

Mitigation Measures. No mitigation is required beyond standard County ordinance requirements. Future development in urban areas (where community sewer systems are available) would be required to pay impact fees to fund improvements and offset impacts on County treatment plants. With payment of these fees, impacts to wastewater conveyance systems throughout the County would be less than significant. For development in areas where development would not be serviced by a community sewer system, wastewater treatment systems would be required to comply with Title 19 of the County Code (Sections 19.07.022 and 19.07.023) to ensure septic system design and capacities are adequate. Compliance with these requirements would ensure less than significant impacts.

It should be noted that, in accordance with Section 19.10.030 of the County code, the construction of any building requiring a new or enlarged sewage disposal system or sewage holding tank system within the community of Baywood Park and Los Osos is not allowed. Pursuant to Section 19.10.031, the temporary building moratorium established by Section 19.10.030 shall be in full force and effect until such time as a sewage collection, treatment and disposal system is installed to serve the entire prohibition zone identified in California Regional Water Quality Control Board Resolution 83-13, Exhibit A.

Significance after Mitigation. Compliance with County code Sections 19.07.022 and 19.07.024, in addition to payment of the required fees for public services, would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

**Impact PS-2     The proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would modify current development standards. Development occurring under the revised ordinances could affect fire protection, police protection, and/or parks and recreation services. With payment of required development impact fees, this is a Class III, *less than significant, impact.***

The proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances will modify and add requirements pertaining to erosion and sedimentation control and stormwater management. Implementation of the ordinance revisions on a project-by-project basis may affect the design and location within a given site of grading, construction, and other site improvements. However, the ordinance revisions do not affect the density, intensity, and overall location of development relative to service boundaries.

Fire Protection. Requirements of the proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances could cause future development to be located closer to high and very high fire hazard areas throughout the County. This would be a potentially significant impact and would increase the burden on fire protection services. The fire hazard potential of an area is determined by the relative amounts of fuel loading, fire weather, and slope. Fuel loading refers to the age, type, and density of vegetation in an area. The fire weather index considers the



number of hot, dry days. Slope refers to the topography of an area, which may hinder access for fire fighting efforts. Slope is also important because fire travels faster on steep slopes. There are many areas in the County that are subject to these potentially significant fire threats, some of which may be used for future development under the proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances.

Existing ordinances require that individual projects maintain a specific gallon per minute fire flow or additional storage capacity in rural areas based on the Fire Department specifications. Fire flow is defined as the amount of water required, above and beyond domestic needs, to extinguish a fire in a structure and which shall be available during peak water demand periods. Every applicant would be required to comply with the most recent Uniform Fire Code and implement County fire protection standards as required by both the Land Use Ordinance (Chapter 22.50 – Fire Safety) and Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance (Sections 23.05.080 through 23.05.086). The design of driveways is required to meet County standards to ensure adequate emergency access to the site. Future proposed road systems are required to allow unhindered Fire Department access and maneuvering during emergencies.

Overall, the proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would result in the same development potential compared to what could currently occur under the General Plan. Any population increase would result in the need for additional department services, potentially increasing response times and reducing the existing firefighter to population ratio but are anticipated under the General Plan. Consistent with existing ordinance requirements, applicants for development in accordance with the proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would pay development impact fees to fund service improvements. An applicant is also required to prepare a fire safety plan in collaboration with the local fire agencies. In areas where fire hazard is considered high or very high, in wildland /urban interface areas, and state responsibility areas, the fire safety plans will employ state-designated wildland urban interface requirements. Inspection of all required fire safety measures will take place before final occupancy is granted on any construction permit. Impacts would therefore be less than significant.

Police Protection and Emergency Services. There are agencies that do not currently meet their established department service ratios and their established response time goals throughout portions of the County. Any additional population that would result from the future development would result in additional demand on department service. However, responding to additional service calls would not significantly compromise response time goals, upon payment of public facility fees. As required by ordinance, the applicant will be required to pay this fee at the time a building permit is issued for structure that result in a need for police and emergency medical services.

Overall, the proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would result in the same development potential compared to what could currently occur under the General Plan. Population increase occurring over General Plan buildout would result in the need for additional department services, potentially increasing response times and reducing the existing deputy to population ratio. In compliance with Title 18 of the County Code, new development project occurring under the Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would continue to pay public facility impact fees to fund facility improvements. Payment of these fees would ensure less than significant impacts.



Parks and Recreation Services. The County Parks and Recreation Element (PRE) of the General Plan identifies locations of existing and proposed parks, trails, and other recreational facilities. During the development review process, the location of projects relative to proposed recreational facilities is considered. The PRE includes specific policies, whereby an applicant may be required to offer dedication of land to accommodate such facilities as recreational trails, as a condition of project approval.

Additionally fees are currently collected to offset the cumulative contribution of development projects to increased demand on parks and recreational facilities. These fees are collected both under Titles 18 (Public Facility Fees) and 21 (Real Property Division – “Quimby Fee”) of the County Code.

Overall, the proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would result in the same development potential compared to what would currently occur under the General Plan. Population increase occurring over General Plan buildout would result in the need for additional facilities. This need can be offset under the currently established fee program.

Mitigation Measures. Compliance with fire safety requirements in the Land Use Ordinance and Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance and payment of required Public Facility impact fees and Quimby Fees are already required. These existing measures serve to mitigate each project’s individual contribution towards significant impacts on fire services, police and emergency services, and parks/recreational facilities. No additional mitigation measures beyond existing requirements are necessary.

Significance after Mitigation. Compliance with the Uniform Fire Code, County Fire Protection Standards, Wildland Urban Interface Requirements, applicable Public Facility Fees, and Quimby Fees would reduce impacts to less than significant.

**Impact PS-3 The proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would modify current development standards. While the ordinance revisions would not, themselves, result in impacts, buildout under current General Plan parameters would result in the addition of potential students. With the incorporation of existing impact fees, this will be a Class III, *less than significant*, impact.**

The proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would modify certain development standards pertaining to erosion and sedimentation control and stormwater management. These revisions will not affect density, intensity, or level of development beyond what is anticipated in the General Plan.

Future development occurring under General Plan buildout could result in student generation levels that could have a significant impact on County schools that are currently operating near, at, or over capacity. Since the evaluation of school impacts under CEQA is limited to those effects with the potential to result in physical impacts, such as the need for construction of new classrooms or placement of portable classrooms, new student generation in districts that are currently overcapacity would be a significant impact. Table 4.8-2 in Section 4.8.1(d) summarizes the capacity of County school districts and ranks them by level of severity.



According to the table, Shandon Unified, Coast Unified, Paso Robles, Templeton Unified, Atascadero Unified, Lucia Mar Unified, and Pleasant Valley School Districts are all experiencing overcrowding in at least one of their schools. As a result, impacts would be most severe in areas served by these districts. Because the exact location of future development is only speculative at this time, and there are varying student generation rates for the different school districts in the County, it is not possible to quantify the number of students that would result from future development. However, there are districts in the County that are operating near, at or over capacities. Thus, any additional students would result in a significant impact on school services and facilities.

Development in accordance with the proposed Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would require payment of full development fees to the school district in which the project is located. These fees would contribute funding for new school facilities for the students potentially generated by the ordinances. Pursuant to Section 65995 (3)(h) of the California Government Code (Senate Bill 50, chaptered August 27, 1998), the payment of statutory fees "...is deemed to be full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or adjudicative act, or both, involving, but not limited to, the planning, use, or development of real property, or any change in governmental organization or reorganization." Therefore, with the payment of fees, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures. Payment of existing statutory school impact fees would reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. No further measures beyond the existing requirements would be necessary.

Significance after Mitigation. Compliance with California Government Code and payment of applicable school fees associated with new development would reduce impacts to less than significant.

**c. Cumulative Impacts.** Cumulative public service impacts associated with future development from the Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances would incrementally increase demand on wastewater systems, fire protection, police/ emergency services, student generation, and parks and recreation demand. However, compliance with public service related impacts fees associated with future development would reduce impacts to less than significant. Therefore, the Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances are not expected to have any cumulative impact on County public services.

